

2023-24

PUBLIC HEALTH

Degree Offered: Master of Public Health



Program Description

This program allows students the flexibility to pursue graduate coursework online. It provides active learning opportunities through online technologies and interactive methods. Students may choose full or part-time study but should plan to complete the program within 5 years. The curriculum focuses on public health practice and consists of four core courses, six additional required courses, two elective courses, a field placement experience, and a capstone project. Assignments require the application of theoretical concepts to practical situations through case analysis and experiential activities.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the general [Graduate School admission requirements](#), this program has no additional specific requirements.

Credits Required to Graduate

42 credits

Required Courses

18155 Public Health Theory & Practice. *3 credits.*

This course provides an overview of various theories in public health, as well as, how public health theories can be applied in individual, interpersonal, and community settings. The course will highlight various factors that contribute to public health, including biological, family, ethnic and cultural, and community stressors that affect health and well-being. The course will provide an overview of translating research into public health practice.

18160 Racial and Ethnic Inequalities in Health. *3 credits.*

Recommended: General Epidemiology and Basic Biostatistics.

This course will provide students with an in-depth introduction to health disparities and health inequities as they pertain to specific populations in the US that have been historically disadvantaged and systematically deprived of opportunities to achieve optimal health. The course material will also include an overview of social determinants of population health. We will: (i) consider historical and contemporary debates in conceptualizing race and ethnicity, (ii) examine the burden of racial and ethnic disparities in the US, (iii) identify and examine some of the social determinants of health of health and drivers of health inequity and (iv) examine theoretical and practical challenges of developing innovative strategies to eliminate health disparities and achieve health equity.

18165 Principles of Public Health Data and Epidemiology. *3 credits.*

This course examines public health data and epidemiological concepts, including foundations of epidemiology, practical applications of public health data and epidemiology, core measures in public health, descriptive epidemiology, sources of data, study designs and data analysis, communicating data, informatics, disease transmission and prevention, morbidity and mortality, screening tests, infectious disease causation, environmental health, and social, behavioral, and psychosocial epidemiology. The course emphasizes practical

application of concepts and skills learned related to accessing, analyzing, and communicating public health data. The course provides the student with an understanding of the distribution and determinants of health and disease in population groups. The course provides the foundation for many other courses in the MPH program.

18203 Public Health Administration. 3 credits.

Public health professionals require administrative skills at many levels, from managing personnel and health programs, to making and advocating for organizational and policy decisions regarding the distribution of society's scarce public health resources. This is a survey course designed to introduce 1) the structure, functions, and financing of public health within the context of the U.S. healthcare system and its health policies; 2) the planning, implementation, management, and evaluation of programs to improve health; and 3) principles of effective finance, budgeting, grant-writing, and management strategies. In addition to tutorials, readings and case studies, students will complete assignments that are aligned with their own communities, organizations, and professional roles.

18204 Public Health Analytics. 3 credits.

The use of descriptive and analytical statistics in research studies, with an emphasis on understanding statistical reports and judging the appropriateness of statistical applications reported in the literature. Calculations of statistics are included as a means to understand the appropriate use of statistics.

18209 Community Health Assessment and Improvement. 3 credits.

Recommended: 18203 Public Health Administration

This course covers the central concepts of community health assessment and improvement. Students will review public health concepts from a public health systems and practice perspective. The course will focus on public health essential services 1 and 2. Students will obtain an understanding of the public health system, community health assessment and the health improvement process using selected frameworks. The course will focus in-depth on learning about the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) frameworks and application of selected components to course projects. In addition, this course will provide the foundation for future community health planning and evaluation courses by building on the content of the public health administration course using a public health practice perspective.

18223 Public Health Policy. 3 credits.

This course will meet the need of MCW MPH students to know and understand the fundamentals of public health policymaking by diverse stakeholders in the process. The course fills gaps in the curricula at MCW. The textbook is Bodenheimer and Grumbach, *Understanding Health Policy: a Clinical Approach*, 6th edition, Lange publisher. Each session has educational objectives and a competency goal, readings and possible videos, a recorded audio slide presentation by faculty, and a discussion question for students addressing the conflicts and challenges in policy development.

18230 Community Health Program Planning. 3 credits.

Recommended: 18203 Public Health Administration and 18209 Community Health Assessment and Improvement.

Builds on the foundation in health improvement program planning obtained in the Public Health Administration and Community Assessment and Improvement courses. This course will

increase the depth and breadth of students' knowledge and skills through a theoretical and application-based curriculum through three modules, including strategic planning, program planning, and leadership competencies to lead planning efforts.

18260 Community Health Program Evaluation. 3 credits.

The Community Health Program Evaluation course examines the basic topics related to Community Health Program Evaluation including the history of program evaluation; the levels of program evaluation process; qualitative and quantitative measures; data management tools; data analysis methods; quality management; and other contextual issues surrounding program evaluation. This course will incorporate the use of assigned readings, group projects, peer evaluation, online discussions, and exams in order to foster knowledge of material presented in the course, as well as application-based learning in the area of evaluation of community health.

18268 Leadership for the Public's Health. 3 credits.

Prerequisites: 18203 Public Health Administration. For students with limited public health experience, 18209 Community Health Assessment and Improvement is recommended as a prerequisite.

The course takes a broad look at leadership within public health practice. An introduction to theoretical and evidence-based research is applied to a wide range of public health challenges. Learners will apply knowledge and personal experiences to newly focused leadership understanding through application to practice. Leadership theory and research will connect to core public health practices of assessment, policy development and assurance.

18279 Field Placement Preparation. 1 credit.

Prerequisites: 18165 Principles of Public Health Data and Epidemiology, 18203 Public Health Administration, 18204 Public Health Analytics, 18155 Public Health Theory and Practice; all required coursework in the Master of Public Health program besides 18280 Field Placement and 18297 MPH Capstone Project recommended.

This course provides the foundation for the MPH Field Placement course, a required culminating experience within the MPH program. In the Preparation course, students will connect with public health organizations and arrange their specific Field Placement project. The course will highlight principles of human subject research as well as community-academic partnerships and will help students apply these principles in the development of their project.

18280 Field Placement. 1-5 credits.

Prerequisites: All required coursework in the Master of Public Health program besides 18297 MPH Capstone Project recommended.

This is a planned, supervised and evaluated applied practice experience that is designed to enhance and complement the student's educational training by providing practical experience in public or private organizations that address significant public health issues. Working with a site preceptor and faculty advisor, students will develop at least two products for an organization that demonstrate public health competency attainment and are relevant to their professional area of interest.

18297 Capstone Project. *3 credits.*

Prerequisites: All other MPH coursework.

The Capstone Project or Integrative Learning Experience is a culminating experience that requires the students to synthesize and integrate knowledge acquired in coursework and other learning experiences and apply theory and public health principles in the development of a master's paper on significant public or community health issue or topic.

Elective Courses

18101 Foundations of Public Health. *3 credits.*

This is a required course for all students enrolled in the MCW MPH dual degree program and is offered as an elective to all other currently admitted MPH students. This course provides an overview of various theories and practices in public health, as well as how public health theories and practices can be applied to the health of populations. Using the public health system as a framework, the course will address core foundational aspects of public health, public health history, 21st century public health practices, the interrelationship between law, government, and public health, and an introduction to public health emergency preparedness and response. The course will also address health determinants and health equity in the practice of public health.

18115 Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. *3 credits.*

Students will learn key concepts through readings, lectures, on-line discussions and written exercises. The latter will allow students to practice designing elements of an HP/DP plan for a population and health problem of their own choosing using each of the theoretical models and techniques presented in the course. This course is an elective in the MPH degree program, the Certificate in Community Health Assessment & Planning program, and the Certificate in Population Health Management program.

18150 Public Health Law and Ethics. *3 credits.*

The Public Health Law & Ethics course examines law as a tool for public health as well as the ethics underlying the practice of public health and how they interact with the ethical principle of justice, which underlies all of law. The course explores law and ethics in public health through readings related to governmental authority with respect to population and the conflict that it can create with individuals' rights. The course focuses on inadequacies of and changes to the law as revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to realign public health and the law with the ethics of health justice and equity.

18215 Infectious Diseases. *3 credits.*

Emphasizes the practice of public health in the following areas of infectious diseases: surveillance, outbreak investigation and control, and prevention and policy.

18232 Introduction to Population Health Management. *3 credits.*

Provides knowledge and builds competencies to improve population health outcomes as well as patient and provider experiences and to reduce per person costs; themes include leadership in teams, care of populations, health service quality and value, data analysis and reporting, and financial management; competencies include leadership and inter-professional communication, systems thinking, social and behavioral sciences, data management, process and outcome improvement, and policy advocacy.

18241 Health Communication. *3 credits.*

This course is designed to explore the ways that communication impacts people's health and wellbeing, as well as their understanding of health-related topics. The course will cover multiple levels of communication, different communication channels, and the use of diverse communication media and technologies.

18260 Community Health Program Evaluation. *3 credits.*

The Community Health Program Evaluation course examines the basic topics related to Community Health Program Evaluation including the history of program evaluation; the levels of program evaluation process; qualitative and quantitative measures; data management tools; data analysis methods; quality management; and other contextual issues surrounding program evaluation. This course will incorporate the use of assigned readings, group projects, peer evaluation, online discussions, and exams in order to foster knowledge of material presented in the course, as well as application-based learning in the area of evaluation of community health.

18295 Reading and Research. *1-3 credit(s).*

An independent study course, under public health faculty guidance, to pursue reading and research in an area of specific student interest.

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